



## Hockey falls to Ferris State

Only one conference point for Mavericks, now fifth in the CCHA

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# gateway

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA SINCE 1913

## Track sprints through record-breaking weekend

Pinar Saka and Anja Pucs secure UNO records

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VOLUME 08 | ISSUE 32

TUESDAY | FEBRUARY 3, 2009

## Search wraps up for dean of education

SCOTT STEWART  
NEWS EDITOR

Four finalists to replace former College of Education Dean John Langan visited campus last month as the search progress came to a close.

Each of the finalists was invited by a search committee chaired by Gail Baker, dean of the College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media. They toured campus, were interviewed for the position and conducted an open forum with students, faculty and staff during their stay on campus.

The candidates for the position are Nancy Edick, current acting associate dean of the college; Deborah Rodgers, associate dean for Student Services at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Okla.; Lawrence Rossow, director of the Center for Special Education Due Process at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Okla.; and Bradford Strand, department head and professor in the Department of Health, Nutrition and Exercise Sciences at North Dakota State University in Fargo, N.D.

Edick is a UNO alumna who graduated with a bachelor's in elementary education in 1982, a master's in supervision and administration in 1992 and a doctorate in education in 2001. She was a teacher for Omaha Public Schools from 1982 to 1993 and has served the College of Education in various positions since 1993. She also received UNO's Order of the Tower award in 2004 for her work with the Metropolitan Omaha Educational Consortium.

Rodgers holds a doctorate in early childhood education from Auburn University in Auburn, Ala., and has been the associate dean for Student Services at the University of Oklahoma since January 2005. She is a former assistant production manager of the Journal of Search in Childhood Education and was the director of the University of Northern Illinois Day Care Center for four and a half years.

Rossow, who holds a doctorate in educational administration and law from Loyola University in Chicago, is an ordained Catholic minister and a former U.S. Army captain. He has had a private pilot license since 1991 and is also a certified scuba diver and charter sailboat driver.

He has taught high school English; been a principal, a headmaster and a superintendent; as well as a professor of education, liberal studies, theology and law. He also has 12 published books.

SEE **DEAN**: PAGE 8

## No. 1 Mavs trounce Oklahoma, Nebraska-Kearney on weekend



Senior Brent Pankoke gets the upper hand on UNK's Paul Sutton during the 184-pound match Friday night. Pankoke defeated Sutton 11-5. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

TAYLOR MULLER  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The wrestling team's last two home duals of the season were big. With big rankings on the line, big wins by the team kept the Mavericks powering through visits by the University of Central Oklahoma and inter-state rival Nebraska-Kearney.

"The challenge for these guys, every day, is to just be consistent, to be their best every day," said UNO Coach Mike Denney. "We're always trying to sharpen the old saying, 'If you're not getting better you're getting worse.'"

For undefeated UNO, there is only one way to go in the rankings. But strong

wrestling Friday and Saturday night have proved to be enough to keep the Mavs scoring high and winning duals.

On Friday against Central Oklahoma at the Lee Sapp Fieldhouse, the Mavericks lost only one match out of 10, and it was the first of the night. Sweeping the Broncos, the Mavs won overall, 43-3.

At 125-pounds, the Broncos' Tim Elliot scored a 10-4 decision over UNO's Matt Rein to open the duals. However, Central Oklahoma fans had to hold onto that win for the rest of the night, with the next nine matches falling to the Maverick wrestling machine.

In the next match, at 133,

UNO's No. 2 Cody Garcia responded with a pin on Scott Berens in 2:21. Pin number two for the Mavs came at 157, with No. 1 Todd Meneely pinning Ed Jackson in 2:11, improving his record to 16-0.

UNO pins ended the final three matches, with 184-pounder Brent Pankoke pinning Daniel Morrison in 4:59, Jacob Marrs at 197 over UCO's Zach James at 4:00 and heavyweight Tony Lewis pinning 285-pound Dustin Finn in 1:30.

Saturday night, the Mavs hosted inter-state rival Nebraska-Kearney at the Sapp Fieldhouse, defeating the Lopers 26-9.

SEE **WRESTLING**: PAGE 3

## UNO wants women to learn to be heart healthy

SCOTT STEWART  
NEWS EDITOR

Shocking statistics about women are nothing out of the ordinary in many news stories — facts like one in every four women are victims of sexual assault, or that women only make about 80 percent of the wages men do.

Add to that violent crime, including Omaha's 44 homicides last year, or the current economic recession, and it's easy to forget the impact more common tragedies can have, including unbuckled seatbelts, drunken driving or Alzheimer's disease.

The American Heart Association, however, wants women to remember one more statistic this Friday: about every minute, another woman dies of heart disease. In total, heart disease claims a staggering 460,000 women in this country every year, making it the leading cause of death for American women.

Five years ago, the American Heart Association established its National Wear Red Day to help raise awareness of the death toll caused by heart attacks, and encourage women to educate themselves about their health by taking that fact to heart.

In observance of National Wear Red Day, UNO Student Health Services will be sponsoring a presentation Friday from noon to 1 p.m. in the Milo Bail Student Center Gallery Room to help members of the campus community learn to be heart healthy.

Student Health Services

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## Memorial celebrates life of student

TAYLOR MULLER  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

ELK HORN, Iowa — Saturday would have been his 24th birthday.

But, as family and friends gathered in the small town of Elk Horn, Iowa, it was not the celebration anyone wanted or expected. The gathering was a celebration of life, while mourning the death of UNO student Jacob Christensen.

Christensen was found dead after an apparent suicide in the Crossroads Mall parking garage on Jan. 23. His father, Herb Christensen, said he believes his son found a "permanent solution to a temporary problem."

Nearly 200 people showed up to Elk Horn Lutheran Church to observe Jacob Christensen's death. They swelled the small town, which had a population

of about 650 people according to the most recent data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

As the memorial began, the Elk Horn Lutheran Church radiated with love and remorse for the 23-year-old. Family members and friends spoke and performed music in honor of Jacob Christensen's life, and a memory of a fun-loving, intelligent young man emerged.

"There's so much to say at a time like this, and, people ask, 'What happens now?'" said Christina Hilario, Jacob Christensen's sister. "There's nothing you can do but put full faith in Christ."

Jacob Christensen was attending UNO on a Regents' scholarship, having already earned an associate degree in computer animation at Full Sail University in Orlando, Fla. He was

SEE **MEMORIAL**: PAGE 8



The memorial for UNO student Jacob Christensen was held at Elk Horn Lutheran Church in Elk Horn, Iowa, on Saturday. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

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MBSC Room 115  
6001 Dodge Street  
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## Pathways to Harmony

Students, faculty and staff looking to develop their ability to function in a diverse work environment can participate in UNO's recently updated Pathways to Harmony program.

The half-day professional development program explores diversity through experiential workshops, activities and discussions.

The goal of the program is to increase awareness of the dynamics of prejudice and the barriers to cross-cultural communication. Participants will learn to identify their own misconceptions in a controlled environment.

"We are excited about presenting updated material that keeps the campus focused on issues of diversity," Sharon Ulmar, director of Equal Opportunity Office, said in a statement. "It will help to enhance respectful relationships and create an open and constructive dialogue about diversity on the UNO campus."

Pathways for Harmony will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 24, from 8:30 a.m. to noon in the Milo Bail Student Center Dodge Room.

Seating for the program is limited. To register, call Kate Clark, coordinator of Disability Services, at 554-2896 or e-mail her at [mkclark@mail.unomaha.edu](mailto:mkclark@mail.unomaha.edu).

For more information, visit <http://www.unomaha.edu/pathways>.

- Scott Stewart

## New ombudspersons

UNO's three ombudspersons have had their terms extended through 2009, according to an announcement from the UNO Equal Opportunity Office. They are:

- Tracie Anderson, assistant director, New Student Orientation;
- Rhonda Sheibal-Carver, staff assistant, School of Public Administration; and
- Mark Scherer, associate professor, Department of History.

The office, first established in 1970, helps handle questions and grievances from students, faculty and staff. Acting as the "people's counsel," the ombudspersons' purpose is to suggest solutions when normal bureaucratic processes fail.

"They will try to assure that a fair resolution of a dispute or problem is found," Sharon Ulmar, director of the Equal Opportunity Office, said in a statement.

All inquiries with ombudspersons are confidential, and no person can be penalized in any way for seeking assistance.

The three ombudspersons represent different segments of the campus community: Anderson represents management, Sheibal-Carver represents staff and Scherer represents faculty.

For more information, visit <http://www.unomaha.edu/ombuds.php>.

- Scott Stewart

## 'Lunch & Learn' series

The UNO Speech Center will continue its "Lunch & Learn" series on presentation skills this semester.

The workshop schedule is:

- "Let Your Body Speak: Delivering an Effective Presentation," Wednesday, Feb. 11, 11 a.m. to noon;
- "Researching and Citing Sources: Preventing Plagiarism," Tuesday, March 31, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; and
- "Introductions, Conclusions and Audience Centeredness," Tuesday, April 21, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The workshops will all be held in the Milo Bail Student Center Gallery Room. Free pizza and soda pop will be provided to participants.

The programs are open to all students. Space is limited, however, so participants must register in advance. To register, contact the Speech Center at 554-3201 or [unospeechcenter@unomaha.edu](mailto:unospeechcenter@unomaha.edu).

Assistance with speech preparation for students is also available through the Speech Center by appointment. The center also provides support for class presentations and speech coaching services for faculty members.

For more information, visit <http://www.unomaha.edu/speechcenter>.

- Scott Stewart

# How to graduate early: Irritate your college's president

DAVID KLEPPER  
McCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

LAWRENCE, Kan. (MCT) — Brenda Councillor admits she was a rabble-rouser on the campus of Haskell Indian Nations University.

But it still came as a shock when she discovered over the holidays that she had had been graduated — and kicked out of her dorm room — against her will.

University administrators admit they waived her last semester and a required course, but they deny it was to get rid of her.

Councillor isn't so sure.

"I get a call from the registrar, and he says, 'I have some good news — you're graduated,'" recalled Councillor, 45, who is originally from Wisconsin. "I feel like I've been banished."

As a member of the student senate, Councillor had complained loudly about university President Linda Sue Warner's decisions. Councillor circulated a petition last fall seeking the removal of Warner, who has had a stormy relationship with students and the Board of Regents during her two-year tenure.

But Warner insisted this week that had nothing to do with Councillor being barred from the dorms, locked out of her campus e-mail account and getting her diploma early.

"I can't imagine that it did," Warner said.

Warner said the university registrar decided to waive Councillor's final required course. Warner noted that Councillor already had 10 more credits than required for a degree and has been on campus for four years. She said the university wants students to make academic progress and graduate so other students can enroll.

But Warner acknowledged that the university has "administratively graduated" only one other student in the past, and that other students take five or six years to graduate without officials taking similar action.

Still, she doesn't understand why Councillor's upset — even though her name was listed incorrectly on her diploma.

"I would be surprised if you could find anybody who would not be glad to graduate," Warner said.

University registrar Manny King did not return calls seeking comment. Nor did Russell Blackbird, the acting vice president of academic affairs, who oversees academic policy.

Councillor wrote Blackbird asking him about the decision to award her a degree and refund her student fees and his response came in a letter dated Jan. 6:

"My priority is working with current Haskell Indian Nations University students," Blackbird wrote. "Your concerns as a recent graduate of Haskell Indian Nations University in American Indian Studies will not be considered at this time."

But George Tiger, vice chairman of the university's Board of Regents, called Councillor's case "worrying."

"We hear concerns from a lot of students," Tiger said. "One concern we hear is that there's a possibility of retaliation if you're not a supporter of Dr. Warner."

The Regents represent tribes from across the nation and have only advisory power. The U.S. Bureau of Indian Education oversees Haskell directly. Tiger said he and other regents would meet with bureau officials next week to discuss concerns about Haskell's administration.

Warner said that the decision to give Councillor a degree is part of a larger effort to bring university policies in line with larger universities around the country.

But the University of Kansas, the University of Missouri and the University of Missouri at Kansas City have no policies forcing a student to graduate because they've been on campus too long. In some cases, students risk losing course credits if they take too long to get a degree.

Robert Martin served as Haskell's president for a decade before he left in 1999 to teach at other universities. He said he couldn't recall ever forcing a student to graduate because they'd been on campus too long.

"We didn't have that policy in place at Haskell or at any of the places where I've worked," Martin said.

When Warner took over as president two years

ago, she promised to modernize Haskell — the nation's only federally funded four-year university dedicated to Native American students — and make it competitive with major universities.

Warner started a new campus research center, implemented a new student health program, signed cooperative agreements with other universities and started work to expand degree options. A new personnel policy was established, and some faculty members were reassigned.

Yet some students complained that Warner wanted to raise student fees and hadn't done enough to address campus security or upgrade computers. The Board of Regents also complained that Warner wasn't listening to students and wasn't forthcoming about university finances.

Last summer, the regents called for Warner to step down and asked for an investigation of her administrative policies. Warner refused and was backed by her supervisors in Washington.

Last fall, 400 of the university's 997 students signed Councillor's petition seeking Warner's removal or resignation. Then earlier this month, the University's Endowment Association disbanded because it said Warner wouldn't meet with them.

"She does things on her own and doesn't consider what it means to other people," said Martha Houle, an Overland Park, Kan., resident and former president of the Haskell Alumni Association. "That's not the way to lead Haskell."

Warner dismisses such criticism, saying that many of her critics are simply resistant to change.

"We're trying to make the university closer to what one would expect out of a major university," she said.

Councillor, however, isn't leaving without a fight. She has lodged complaints with members of Congress, the federal Inspector General's office and the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs.

She's spending her nights at the home of a friend, and spending her days hanging out at the campus library.

"They're trying to run me off," Councillor said. "I'm still here."

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## CRIME LOG

COMPILED BY  
SCOTT STEWART  
NEWS EDITOR

19, and 7 a.m., Friday, Jan. 23.

Wednesday, Jan. 28

**8:32 p.m.** A staff member reported the theft of personal property from an unsecured locker in the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building. The incident occurred between 7:55 p.m. and 8:11 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 27

**1:45 p.m.** A staff member reported the theft of university property from Arts and Sciences hall. The incident occurred between 5 p.m., Friday, Dec.

## Mavs pick up one conference point at Ferris State, slip to fifth in CCHA

SCOTT STEWART  
NEWS EDITOR

The Mavericks were unable to rebound following their 6-1 loss to Miami on Jan. 24, and ended up finishing a road series against Ferris State by earning only one point towards Central Collegiate Hockey Association standings.

Friday saw a 7-1 loss to the Bulldogs, even as UNO got out to an early 1-0 lead. Saturday was closer, with the Mavs holding on to force a 1-1 tie, but dropping the shootout 2-1.

With the loss and the tie, UNO moves to 13-10-6 on the season and 8-8-6-3 in CCHA play. They also fell from a three-way tie for third place to fifth in conference standings after the weekend.

Starting out strong Friday, the Mavs gained an early lead as sophomore defenseman Nick Von Bokern netted a power-play goal at the 4:23 mark in the first period.

The Bulldogs, however, answered and began building their own lead. At 9:30 in the first, Ferris State's Scott Wietecha scored on a power play, leaving the score 1-1 going into the second period.

Bulldog Corey Couturier made it 2-1 by beating Mavs goaltender Jeremie Dupont at 4:11 in the second. Bulldog sophomore Justin Menke scored a third goal with a short-handed tally at 16:28 after freshman Derek Graham was given a two-minute minor for high sticking.

In the third period, Ferris State rubbed salt in the Mavs' wounds, netting four more off the sticks of Graham, sophomore Justin



UNO returns home this weekend to square off with Western Michigan at the Qwest Center. The puck drops at 7:05 p.m. both nights. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

Lewandowski; and seniors Mike Embach and Brandon Connolly. Lewandowski's goal was another short-handed effort, tying UNO with Bowling Green for the most short-handed goals allowed so far this season in the CCHA at five goals.

The Mavs claimed an initial lead again Saturday, with sophomore forward Rich Purslow beating Ferris State goaltender Taylor Nelson on a power play at 17:56 in the first period. With the assist, junior defenseman Eddie DelGrosso recorded his 21st assist this season, keeping him in the top-10 point producers in the conference. He is also still the highest point producing defenseman in the CCHA, with 26

points.

Following the Mavs onslaught in the first period – where UNO out shot Ferris State 16-4, the Bulldogs fought back to make it 1-1 at 12:27 in the second with a power-play goal by Connolly.

The goal came following a five-minute major against freshman Matt Smith for checking from behind at 10:08 in the second. Smith was also given a game misconduct for the infraction.

After a scoreless third period, the teams went into a shootout. UNO's freshman forward Alex Hudson and Dan Charleston, senior forward, both missed their attempts, but John Kemp, freshman forward, made

his during the third round.

Kemp's shot, however, wasn't enough to win the shootout for the Mavs, after Bulldog Zach Redmond beat Maverick goaltender Jerad Kaufmann in the third round following Connolly's made shot in the first round.

The Bulldogs picked up an extra CCHA conference point with the shootout win, earning four on the weekend. They remain in sixth place in the conference, however, trailing UNO by four points.

The Mavs have three conference series remaining on their schedule: home contests against Western Michigan and Notre Dame and a road series with Michigan.

UNO faced Western Michigan once already this season, picking up a win and a shootout win on the road in Kalamazoo, Mich. Since then, the Broncos have gone 4-11-5-1 in the CCHA, standing in eighth place in the 12-member conference.

Notre Dame and Michigan, however, stand above the Mavs in the conference rankings at first and fourth respectively. Michigan has a 13-7-0-0 conference record so far, while Notre Dame stands at 14-3-3-3 in the CCHA.

Friday, No. 7 Michigan ended No. 1 Notre Dame's 20-game unbeaten streak with a 2-1 upset. The Fighting Irish, however, pushed back a 3-2 win over the Wolverines on Saturday.

This weekend, the Mavericks take the ice against Western Michigan, with the puck dropping at 7:05 p.m. for the Friday and Saturday home series at the Qwest Center.

## Maverick track team sprints through record-breaking Wildcat Invitational

SEAN OWENS  
STAFF WRITER

The UNO women's track team brought its best once again as they traveled to Manhattan, Kan., to participate in the Wildcat Invitational, hosted by Kansas State on Jan. 30 and 31.

In the meet, two UNO standouts made their names known with a pair of record-breaking performances.

In the 600-meter event, senior sprinter Pinar Saka from Istanbul, Turkey, took flight in record-setting fashion by smashing the previous UNO record of 1:24.59 set by Angela Kampschnieder in 2007 with a 1:20.36 audition of her own.

Saka, who excels in the 200- and 400-meter, said she knew she could beat Kampschnieder.

"I felt that the record was something that I could break," Saka said. "I think that [Kampschnieder] was a good runner, but I went in there knowing that I could break that record."

Saka certainly knows record-breaking performances. Just two weeks ago at the Holiday Inn Invitational in Lincoln, she broke her previous school record of 53.61 in the 400-meter with a blazing time of 53.36, a D-II National qualifying mark.

Sophomore sprinter Anja Pucs put her name in the record books on Saturday, this

time in the 800-meter event. Pucs, from Medvode, Slovenia, put forth a national Division II record-setting performance.

Pucs' time of 2:11.57 was not only her first time ever posted in the 800-meter event, but it was also the fastest time in that event in UNO history. The record of 2:13.25 was set by Janice Moreau in 1985.

"It feels good, I cannot lie about it," Pucs said. "It feels really good because it's a school record and it was 23 years old. It really feels great."

Saka will graduate after the 2009 season, and Pucs hope to prove that she can step up for the team.

"I'm going to miss [Saka] so much after next semester," Pucs said. "She has shown me so much and I hope I can do the same for others as I get more experience."

As a pair, these two athletes are always in contention for a record-breaking season. This, however, will be their last together.

The field events for the Mavericks resulted in a pair of third place finishes in both the triple jump and the shot put. Sophomore Rasheem Pitts posted a jump distance of 37 feet and 5 inches, while junior Heather Minssen took third for her distance of 42 feet 6 inches in the throws.

The track and field team will compete next on Feb. 6 and 7 as they head to Lincoln for the Frank Sevigne Husker Invite.



ANJA PUCS

## ATTENTION UNO STUDENTS

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It is the responsibility of each student to know the tuition payment schedule, the late payment fee policy and the refund policy and deadlines.

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[cashiering.unomaha.edu](http://cashiering.unomaha.edu)

## Rebounds, high scorers secure another win for women's basketball

MICHELLE BISHOP

PHOTO EDITOR

The Mavs powered past Rockhurst University 88-53 Saturday afternoon at the Sapp Fieldhouse.

Senior Amanda Brodsack and junior Ashley Nelson each scored 15 points as UNO finished the game shooting 50 percent from the field.

UNO, which never trailed in the game, led 45-29 at the half with a 13-point contribution from Brodsack and a 10-point contribution from Nelson in the first half.

The Mavs put together a well-rounded team effort as all but one player scored for UNO.

Rockhurst, shooting 31 percent for the game, couldn't find an answer for UNO's offensive onslaught in the second half.

UNO (9-9, 5-7 MIAA) scored 38 bench points, including 27 in the last frame. Senior Cayla Hargrove scored nine of her 14 points in the second half, while sophomore Katie Kane added seven points, as well.

Sophomore Lauren Fox tallied her first points of the season by hitting a 3-pointer with 4:12 left in the game to give the Mavs an 82-50 lead.

Although freshman Valerie Zamora and seniors Julie Cook and Amy Hake each contributed eight points, no Rockhurst player advanced into double-digit points.

Contributing greatly to the win, the Mavs also beat the Hawks on rebounds, 58-23. Rockhurst, from the Great Lakes Valley Conference, fell to 9-13.

UNO returns to MIAA play when they visit Northwest Missouri State University (6-14, 2-11 MIAA) on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.



**Top:** Amanda Brodsack shoots over the block of Rockhurst's Julie Cook during Saturday's game.



**Left:** UNO's Ashley Nelson drives past the block of Rockhurst's Meghan Hurley (No. 14) during Saturday's game.

PHOTOS BY JODI PENN/THE GATEWAY

## Cornhuskers shut down Mavericks in the pool

MARCUS HANSEN  
SPORTS EDITOR

The UNL Cornhuskers arrived in Omaha to face the UNO Maverick women's swimming and diving team, Friday.

The Cornhuskers swam ahead early, winning the first 11 events of the afternoon. Overall, UNL swept the meet, 219-78.

The meet featured many untraditional events that allowed each team to emphasize quickness and endurance.

The teams swam in the untraditional 25-yard, and traditional 50-yard variations of the freestyle, butterfly, breaststroke and backstroke.

The Huskers won all eight of the sprints and took the top two places in

the 1000-yard freestyle.

Senior Lindsey Kline of UNO pulled through with a time of 5:11:34, taking in the 500-yard freestyle, giving the Mavs their only first place finish in the dual.

UNO earned three of the top four places in the 500-yard freestyle. Freshman Amy Bechdolt came in second at 5:13.14 and sophomore Lucy Zamecnik finished fourth with a time of 5:29.10.

The UNO divers were unable to overcome their Cornhusker counterparts as the Lincoln swimmers set many career records. Starting off, UNL senior Courtney Jolly set a new career best on the 1-meter board, scoring 296.40, earning her first place in the event.

UNL's Jolly also won the 3-meter with a score of 303.37, and two Husker lower-classmen, sophomore Emily Burbach and freshman D'Arcy Schmidt, each set new career bests in the 1- and 3-meter dives.

UNO will host the conference swim meet at the Health, Physical Education Recreation building Feb 19 through 21.

*Sophomore Laura Kemp finished second in the 25-yard breaststroke on Friday. (JODI PENN/THE GATEWAY)*

FROM **WRESTLING:** PAGE 1

Rein saw the second night open much as the first, with another loss in a 10-4 decision by UNK's Michael Abril.

At 133, Garcia took back the momentum again with a pin of Joey Morrison in 1:13.

An 18-6 major decision for No. 4 Mario Morgan at 141 continued the series of wins for the Mavericks.



**Senior Tony Lewis (right) watches as UNK's Derek Ross flies into the crowd Saturday night. Lewis scored a takedown in the second period and an escape in the third for the win in the 285-pound match. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)**

Morgan followed Garcia's victory with an impressive 18-6 major decision over Tyler Baker at 141 pounds.

Once again, at 157 Meneely continued his undefeated streak, with a take down in 12 second, winning 23-6 technical fall. He is currently 17-0.

Dropping matches at 165 and 174, UNO's lead was reduced to 18-9, however in the showdown of No. 1 Ross Taplin and UNK's No. 2 Marty Usman the Lopers started a come back with two take downs and an escape by Usman to defeat Taplin 6-1.

However, the next three matches killed that dream. Brent Pankoke beat UNK's Paul Sutton 11-5 at 184, UNO's Jacob Marrs at 197 scored a 10-6 decision and Lewis pinned UNK's Derek Ross at 285, winning with a 4-2 decision.

"It's our philosophy of steel, sharp as steel - Friday night wrestling Central, Saturday Kearney - we knew they were going to come after us," Denney said. "Proud of our guys, how they competed, this is just one step along the way."

The quest for perfection continues with a return to the road. UNO will face No. 14 Augustana College on Feb. 5 and No. 3 Minnesota State Mankato on Feb. 6.

"We're still climbing, can't take anything away from Mankato," Lewis said. "Maybe not as solid as they have been, but we're going to their home. They have momentum and the crowd will be for them, we'll just have to perform. It'll be an uphill climb the rest of the season but we wouldn't have it any other way."

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**Feb. 4** – UNO will host a “Black History Month Mixer” at noon in the Milo Bail Student Center Nebraska Room. This event is free and open to all students. For more information, call 554-2711.

**Feb. 5** – Artist Taylor Mali performs slam poetry at noon in the Milo Bail Student Center Nebraska Room. Mali has appeared on the HBO original series “Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry” and won a record four national poetry slam championships.



TAYLOR MALI

in Chicago, will examine the relationship between Hitler's high-profile monumental architecture, the oppression of National Socialist Germany and its most extreme punitive institution, the concentration camps. The lecture is free and open to all students and staff.

**Feb. 10** – Grammy-nominated rock band Mötley Crüe plays the Qwest Center Arena. The show starts at 6:30 p.m. with opening performances by Hinder and Theory of a Deadman. For tickets, call Ticketmaster at 422-1212.

**Feb. 12** – “Swing, Swing, Swing” opens at the Rose. The Omaha Theatre Ballet presents this swing ballet show with music from the 1920s, '30s and '40s. Tickets are \$16 for non-members and can be purchased by calling 345-4849.

**Feb. 13** – Sokol Auditorium hosts alternative group Mudvayne, along with Nonpoint and In This Moment. Tickets are \$30 for this 8 p.m. show.



## February Events Calendar

BY ANDREA BARBE

**Feb. 13** – Film Streams brings in veteran actor Seymour Cassel for a film screening of “Minnie & Moskowitz,” followed by a post-show question and answer session. Cassel won the Sundance Award for his performance in 1992’s “In the Soup,” but is also known for his work in more recent films like “Rushmore” and “The Royal Tenenbaums.” Tickets are \$30 for non-members and \$25 for members. The festivities begin at 7 p.m.

**Feb. 13** – UNO’s Women’s Resource Center is sponsoring performances of the “Vagina Monologues.” The show will start at 7 p.m. in the Eppley Administration Building Auditorium.

**Feb. 14** – Goo presents a Valentine’s Day celebration at the Slowdown. The 21 and over party starts at 9 p.m. and \$5 gets you in the door.

**Feb. 14** – Lauritzen Gardens hosts a “Valentine’s Day Dinner” in their floral display hall from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The cost is \$50 per person. To reserve a seat, call Merri at 346-4002 ext. 201.

**Feb. 18** – The UNO Student Organizations and Leadership Programs present “Charles Ahovissi - African Culture Connection.” This event features African music and dance that begins at noon in the Milo Bail Student Center Nebraska Room.

**Feb. 19** – “Bat Boy” makes its way to the Omaha Community Playhouse’s Howard Drew Theatre. This comedic performance is about a bat boy found in West Virginia and how he’s shunned by society. The show will run through March 29. For tickets, call the box office at 553-0800.

**Feb. 22** – The Joslyn Art Museum presents “Nebraska: Crossroads of the Western Fur Trade.” History re-enactor Darrel W. Draper will perform in celebration of the “Sentimental Journey: The Art of Alfred Jacob Miller” exhibit that is currently on display. The event is open to the public. Admission is \$5 for college students and \$7 for adults.

**Feb. 26** – Canadian songbird Celine Dion performs at the Qwest Center Arena on her “Taking Chances World Tour.” The show starts at 8 p.m. with tickets ranging from \$49.50 to \$137.

**Feb. 26** – UNO Theatre presents “Waiting for Godot,” a tragic comedy about two men waiting for Godot, who never arrives. Performances run through March 8.

**Feb. 27** – The Blue Flamingo Thrift Store, located at 1716 S. 10th St., between Hickory and Center streets, hosts a UNO Writers Collective. This free event runs from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., featuring writers Fran Higgins, Cat Dixon, Molly Zimmer, Victoria Freivogel, Annemarie Potter, Marc Warburton and Jason Willits, with an acoustic performance by Fran Higgins. For more information, call 964-2740 or visit blueflamingo.org.

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IN THEATRES FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH

## University should remember to sweat small stuff when looking for changes

After attending a budget forum late last month on campus and listening to Chancellor John Christensen talk about UNO's need for creative improvements to help soften the blow of the current recession, I've been thinking about little things the University could do that would pay dividends over time.

Realistically, after all, if the University of Nebraska system has to come up with millions of dollars, drastic measures — translation: increased tuition, faculty and staff cuts, reduced departmental spending and other measures — will have to be implemented. It's simple causality, and to some degree, it's too late to fix things in the short term.

The university's budget situation is similar to the national recession: nothing that Congress or President Obama can do is going to fix the credit crunch or the housing market downturn overnight. Nor will the many jobs lost be instantly restored, retirement funds recovered or the billions stolen by businessmen returned.

What the university, and country, needs to do is look at what improvements can be made so that the next time this happens, our position is more fortuitous.

Some matters are out of our control, of course. The university cannot control the politics that drive the system's share of the state budget continuously downward as Gov. Dave Heineman says he prioritizes education. Nor can Washington control the ebb and flow of Wall Street, or even the particular actions of the Federal Reserve (unless, that is, Rep. Dennis Kucinich ever gets his way).

Nevertheless, it is often not the sweeping reforms of the system that bear the most fruit in the lives of everyday people, but rather the small changes that positively impact things in a meaningful way.

President Obama, for instance, has proposed eliminating the Free Application for Federal Student Aid by providing a check box on tax forms authorizing the use of the information — eliminating the need for separate applications. If implemented, this policy would save an untold number

of students some headaches in getting their college educations.

Here on campus, Christensen is encouraging us to look for ways — as students, faculty, staff and citizens — we can make campus processes more efficient, more valuable and more attractive to students. This is exactly the approach we need to take.

One suggestion I would offer, for instance, came to me this week while I was sitting in my girlfriend's living room leafing through Metropolitan Community College's course catalog.

It is immediately evident, upon opening, how much more student-friendly community colleges can be. If a Metro

student wants to know what classes are needed to graduate, all they would need to do is look at the one-page worksheet that clearly delineates necessary core courses, general education and possible elective courses.

No deciphering of course requirements and, in my case, no Excel spreadsheet to track degree progress is needed. Just tear the sheet out, check the requirements off and plan your next semester's schedule.

Now, depending on your major at UNO, a similar worksheet might be available. I know both the School of Communication and the College of Information Science and Technology offer very easy to use worksheets, similar to the ones at Metro. But this is not true of all departments, and even when they exist, it is hard for some students to find these documents when they actually sit down to use them.

Rather than just proofread the 2009-10 catalog later this month, the university should consider collecting and centralizing worksheets like this somewhere where students can find them. Perhaps by the 2010-11 catalog printing they could even be offered in lieu of the lengthy paragraph-style requirements currently printed.

Such an initiative, in fact, would be similar to one recently undertaken by the Business and Finance Division, which launched a UNO policy library online at [www.unomaha.edu/policies](http://www.unomaha.edu/policies). The depository has the potential to improve student life on campus and is the perfect example of a small

### Sinister Slant



Scott Stewart

### Easy Read



Erik Peterson

## A call for safety, common sense with cars

There is perhaps no greater irony enjoyed in everyday life than our relationship with automobiles. While being one of the greatest contributors to accidental human death, the car is at the same time one of the most cherished privileges on earth. Many people could not survive without their car. Entire countries pride themselves on their auto industries — for better or worse.

Why is it, though, that when faced with the staggering statistics of automotive deaths, people continue to gamble by driving distracted?

Drunken driving is a devastating trend in our society and while many organizations — some federally funded — fight year after year to educate the public about its dangers, there seems to be a scary social acceptance for less newsworthy disturbances, namely cellular phones.

I have been a licensed driver in Nebraska for the better half of a decade and during that time I have witnessed far more questionable driving decisions because of cell phone chatter than anything else.

Most of the time it's the small things: individuals driving for miles down the interstate with their turn signals on or failing to use it in the first place. Each time these incidents ended relatively harm-free but the potential for a wreck certainly existed among the handful of surrounding drivers traveling more than 70 mph.

When one stops to think about it, the culprits are typically the citizens you would never parallel with a drunk driver: a teenage babysitter; a parent running late; a busy cab driver. But considering the potential for loss of human life, it may be time for our culture to begin grouping together all distractions and impairments in regards to the operation of automobiles.

According to [cellular-news.com](http://cellular-news.com), 49 countries have banned the use of cell phones while driving, with some provisions for hands-free kits. The consequences range from fines of less than \$20 to prison sentences.

While 49 may seem like very few countries in a big world, this is a stark contrast to our own nation. In the U.S., only seven states prohibit the use of cell phones while driving, and 16 other states have laws that prohibit new drivers and school bus drivers from using cell phones while driving. Some states allow cities to assign their own laws (of which many do: Chicago, Las Vegas and Santa Fe, to name a few).

For a country that prides itself on progressive social causes, we sure hold a weak ratio amidst our earthly neighbors when it comes to driver safety.

In our fair state of Nebraska there are not — and have never been — any laws prohibiting the use of cell phones while driving.

In 2006, Sen. Jim Cudaback proposed a bill to create such a law, but failed to garner enough supporting votes. According to [Omaha.com](http://Omaha.com), Sen. Norm Wallman voted against Cudaback's bill, but only because he felt its focus on teenage drivers overlooked the need to regulate all drivers.

There are currently no plans in Nebraska to continue seeking similar legislation.

What will be required before our community members open their eyes and prevent frantic people from carrying their anxiety into the life-or-death arena of the public roads?

Even more, how have we not yet held our state and federal governments (to whom our tax dollars go to build and maintain said roadways) to the same standards we would our fledgling 16-year-olds?

change that will be powerful for improving our campus.

So rather than just thinking big when they put on their thinking cap and gown this semester, I hope our university leaders — and students like me and you — also remember to think small and to look to the long-term.

Change, as President Obama made

many people have hope in, really can come, and even something as dire as budget cuts in a recession can be turned into opportunities. The trick is to work at arm's length and to continue making small improvements.

After all, as Lao-tzu supposedly said, the longest journey really does begin with a single step.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

On Friday, January 23, the body of UNO student Jacob Christensen was found in the parking structure at the Crossroads Mall. As his father said, "He found a permanent solution to a temporary problem."

While many of us did not have the privilege of knowing Jacob, we all mourn the loss of a member of our university community. The fact that he was young and chose to end his life makes those who knew him grief stricken and searching for answers.

There are many stressors in our world today — the economy, the fear of losing our jobs, how to pay for the unexpected car repair, problems with our children, our parents, our spouse/significant others, too much to read, too many projects and assignments for class. There is never

enough time to stop and enjoy life and appreciate what we have.

For any of you who are overwhelmed with life's challenges or know someone who is, please remember there are licensed mental health practitioners on campus ready to help you. Their services are free and their doors are open (Eppey 115/554-2409) when you need to talk.

Let the staff of the Counseling Center assist you in finding positive ways to resolve the issues that crowd your life and make your problems seem insurmountable. Let them help you find other solutions so that you, too, do not leave your family and the university community in mourning.

Sincerely,  
Rita M. Henry  
Assistant Vice Chancellor  
Student Affairs



# Playground politics: World view

All the countries in the world are like little children playing on a playground. The earth is these childrens' playground. The grains of sand on this playground represent all the people in the world. I call the countries little children because every nation is still an infant, compared to the likes of the Romans, Egyptians and Mayans.

You might think that all those children on one playground without an adult would be chaos. Hence, that is what the world has – a multitude of problems that cannot be solved by one person, or one invention.

Some look to the power of the U.N. and such global organizations. These children would team up and make the playground a better place. But, as you know by now, these groups are as fragile and fickle as elementary school friendships are.

What about the size of these children? On the playground, the biggest kid usually rules. In our world, money rules all.

The U.S. and other developed countries are the biggest and toughest on the block. Children such as Iran would never dare to challenge the U.S. child alone; they would wipe the child off in a single blow. But the Iranian child, like so many others, is very stubborn and doesn't want to take orders from some kid across the playground.

Other children don't get along either; they throw grains of sand at each other causing wars. Of course, we are the sand and we are the ones who are harmed in these wars. This has been true for ages; people have given their lives to these children.

Some grains give in to the illusion of fear and even welcome the battles. They think battles are necessary to keep the peace. An example is the absurdity of calling nuclear missiles "Peacekeepers."

Meanwhile, the U.S. kid joins other children, like the obese Chinese kid or the child from India with many grains of sand. Together, they start to tear apart the

playground making a big mess. They do this so they can have part of the playground for themselves. The screws from the slide make a pretty possession to the kids.

The little children see the bigger kids' possessions taken from the playground and want some of their own, too. Some of the smaller kids are too weak to do any damage, but the bigger kids – like the U.S. – set the example that ruining the playground is OK.

This exemplifies our global warming problem and how we are destroying the planet.

Why would these kids tear apart the only place they have ever known? It is obviously because they do not realize what they are doing; they're just kids. Even scarier yet, they don't care. Who would stop them?

Some might ask, "Where is the teacher or supervisor?" Isn't some

great force or apocalypse going to save the children? I would not bet on this being the saving grace. In a span of thousands of years, no supervisor has ever shown up to discipline them.

Some may think, "What about Jesus, Buddha or Mohammed?" They were teachers right? But of course remember that we are all just grains of sand. Sure these teachers might have been big stones or even boulders. But these boulders do not concern themselves with the children.

These boulders concern themselves with the grains of sand. Teaching them instead, hoping for a day of enlightenment when all the grains of sand turn into boulders and eventually leave no room for the children.

So what is the point of this metaphor? It is definitely not to put fear – but awareness – into peoples' minds. This awareness is vital. When we are aware that a country is not a being, not something to be relied upon or looked up to, we can focus on solving problems ourselves and taking responsibility for our destiny.

We will no longer be at the mercy of the kids on the playground.



Todd Hansen

# No easy solution for parking

## STAFF EDITORIAL

The recent decision by the Board of Regents to approve \$474,000 to pay for the 2009-10 year of student parking at the Crossroads Mall is an unfortunate last possible scenario to satisfy UNO's parking needs.

While Chancellor John Christensen is confident that there will be more opportunities by next year for additional room, the ideas on the table appear to be only band-aid solutions to an issue that will plague this urban university as it continues to grow.

The possibility that the University Life Complex, the Aksarben development, and the former Chili Greens site could alleviate the parking stress is an avenue worth exploring.

If the university is willing to pay \$3,000 per day for parking, why not use those funds for a long-term, permanent solution.

According to parking.org, the cost for building a multi-level parking structure can range from \$4,500 to \$15,000 per parking space, with a reliable average of \$7,000. Using this amount, one could expect the cost for

a UNO garage of 1,200 spaces to be about \$8.4 million.

While \$8.4 million is certainly a staggering sum, consider the Crossroads parking structure itself.

The parking garage was constructed in 1988, 21 years ago. If UNO were to use that \$8.4 million it would provide for only 17 years of parking.

With that in mind, the \$8.4 million might begin to look like a better investment than renting parking.

Any solution reached is going to be expensive. But, instead of treating the problem on a year-to-year basis, it might soon be profitable to invest in a stable, long-term solution.

While UNO is busy revitalizing the campus, with projects like Mammel Hall, the Health, Physical Education Recreation renovation and Criss Library work, parking will not solve itself.

As the university expands over the next decade and truly becomes Omaha's metropolitan university, less glamorous projects like parking will have to be tackled, better to solve it now, than leave it for our future colleagues.

# What? A word to the iPod generation

Pete Townshend. Neil Young. Bono. Tom McCauley. Besides being musical geniuses (arguably), what do these guys have in common? Noise-induced hearing loss and tinnitus, a permanent ringing, buzzing or roaring of the ears that affects more than 50 million Americans.

It's no secret how we got it: years of playing loud music without earplugs. If music is the highest form of artistic expression, then the louder the better, right?

Maybe not. Prolonged exposure to noises over 85 decibels (the sound of city traffic) can result in injury to one's hearing. The louder the sound, the shorter the time necessary for irreversible damage. An average rock concert clocks in at 120 decibels. At this level it only takes a few minutes for harm to occur.

What has most audiologists and other health professionals concerned is the amount of loud music people are listening to during the day on their MP3 players. All of us have been around someone who is listening to music at such a ridiculous level that it's possible to sing along with the band.

Not only does the incredible volume at which most people listen to their iPods pose a danger to hearing, the standard delivery mechanism of the music itself also makes iPods unsafe.

Since those small white ear buds sit so close to the eardrum, the noise has less distance to travel to the inner ear's fragile cilia. This means people are far more likely to damage their hearing from ear buds than regular headphones.

For those who have experienced hearing loss, little can be done except learning how to cope with the condition. Hearing aids only amplify and modulate sound: they do not allow someone with damaged cilia to regain what they've

lost. Pretty much the only thing a person can do once they've hurt their hearing is to prevent further damage by wearing earplugs in loud environments or avoiding noisy situations altogether.

What's insane is the social stigma against earplugs. So many people have told me they don't wear earplugs because they're afraid of what other people might think of them. To that I say: What? Are you afraid of people thinking you're a smart person? The use of earplugs is intelligent, wise, and not at all uncool.

If people really knew the difficulty of dealing with hearing loss at a young age – like having to say "what?" a hundred times a day or worrying about going deaf by age 40 – they might take it easy on the iPods and wear their earplugs when they go see Metallica, a band whose members suffer from tinnitus.

Frankly, hearing loss sucks. My ears roar all the time, and playing with my band is often nerve-racking, for I wonder if I'm doing yet more damage to my poor ears.

Also, to give you an idea of the everyday difficulties that arise from noise-induced hearing loss, check this out: I am constantly mishearing people, and either mumbling or shouting when I talk because I can't really gauge how my own voice sounds. It's embarrassing.

My girlfriend is always either telling me to keep my voice down or that she can't hear a word I'm saying. And I don't know how to respond except, sorry, can't help it.

So just because some folks pretend not to worry about hearing loss doesn't mean it's no big deal. For me and the legions of people my age who have noticed their hearing start to diminish and have seen their grandpa-shaped future, we will defend with a roar what we have left.



Tom McCauley

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Friends and family celebrated the life of Jacob Christensen through stories and songs at his memorial service in Elk Horn, Iowa, on Saturday. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

#### FROM MEMORIAL: PAGE 1

studying at UNO to become a K-12 science teacher.

Suicide and counseling experts are available on campus for students, faculty and staff with questions about themselves or depressed classmates, said Cathy Pettid, a licensed mental health practitioner and counselor for UNO.

"I think that people are afraid to talk about suicide, that somehow they'll give someone the idea," Pettid said. "It's a taboo subject that you don't bring up. Talking about it and getting it out in the open, needs to happen."

Getting people talking and getting help for those in need are the priorities in dealing with suicide, said Marcia Adler, coordinator of Student Health Services.

"It's difficult for me to watch the pain exist and know there are excellent resources out there," Adler said.

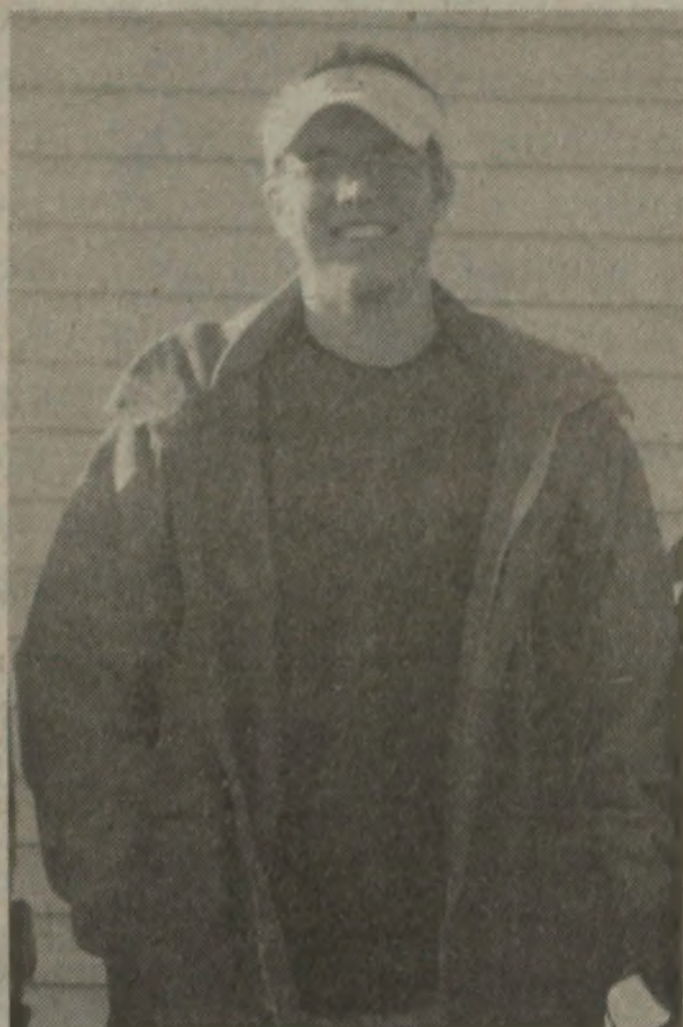
The UNO Counseling Center, located in Epley Administration Building Room 115, is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the week for students, faculty and staff, free of charge and confidential. Pettid said appointments could be made by calling the center and on a walk-in basis for emergencies.

Generally, the center will offer short-term counseling services over an eight-session period on a variety of subjects, including personal growth, career development, everyday stress, anger management, substance abuse and depression.

"Even though the person might be thinking there are no other options besides suicide, it's not that they don't exist, they don't see them," Pettid said. "Those situations are almost always temporary. [It's] important to reach out when you're in crisis or you see someone else is."

Jacob Christensen is survived by his parents Herb and Brenda Christensen, his sister Christina Hilario and nieces Genevieve and Emma, all of Elk Horn, Iowa.

He is also survived by his twin brothers Dan and Andrew of Council Bluffs, Iowa; brother Jason and wife Kristen, their children Bowen, Kaden and Devin of Salt Lake City; brother Geoff and wife Brenda, children Taylor and Ashlea, and sister Kim, all of Naples, Fla.; and his cat Linus.



JACOB CHRISTENSEN

## AMBULANCE, FIRE TRUCK ON DODGE STREET CAMPUS

# "She was just in pain"

Paramedics responded to an emergency on UNO's Dodge Street campus Saturday night after an unidentified female slipped on a pile of ice and broke her ankle in Parking Lot K near Roskens Hall.

The individual was transported for medical treatment at about 9:30 p.m.

"We were coming down the hill and she tripped over the mound," said Curtis Reynolds, who was one of the witnesses who called 911.

Reynolds and Amber Colgrove and Jake McCain were leaving a music convention at Strauss Performing Arts Center when they saw the fall.

"She was just in pain," Colgrove said. All three are students at Tri-County High School in Dewitt, Neb. - Taylor Muller

#### FROM DEAN: PAGE 1

with a 13th going to press, and has written articles on a variety of legal, educational and religious issues.

Strand holds a Ph.D. in physical education curriculum and instruction and has been the head of North Dakota State University's health, nutrition and exercise science program since 1996. He has written six books, most recently "Assessing Fitness in Elementary Physical Education," and has been interviewed about dodgeball and youth sports by MSNBC.

The announcement of the hire for the possession is expected by the end of February, said university spokeswoman Wendy Townley.

David Conway, an associate professor of education, has

#### FROM HEART: PAGE 1

graduate assistant Julie Denker, who is a registered dietitian, will make the presentation. It will include nutritional tips such as favoring dark chocolate over milk chocolate, because the antioxidants in dark chocolate may help lower blood pressure but milk prevents the absorption.

Blood pressure and weight testing will also be available at the event, said Marcia Adler, coordinator of Student Health Services.

"We help them understand what their numbers mean," Adler said.

Pins will also be sold for \$5 as a fundraiser for the American Heart Association. They can be purchased at the event, from Student Health Services or directly from the association. A \$5 donation can also be made by texting "RED" to 90999.

For more information on National Wear Red Day, contact Denker at 554-2374 or visit <http://www.goredforwomen.org>. For more on heart disease in women, visit <http://www.hearthealthywomen.org>.

been serving as the interim dean since Langan's retirement in June. Langan stayed with the department through the end of 2008 to assist with a national accreditation visit.

Langan retired at the same time as College of Arts and Sciences Dean Shelton Hendricks, who was replaced in July by David Booker, who was formerly the chair of Western Illinois University's Department of English and Journalism.

### Heart attack warning signs

The warning signs of a heart attack are the same for men and women, but women are somewhat more likely to experience multiple symptoms. Some heart attacks are sudden and intense, but most start slowly with mild pain or discomfort.

If you or someone you're with is experiencing chest discomfort – especially accompanied by other warning signs, don't wait more than five minutes to call 911. Often people affected aren't sure what's wrong and wait too long before seeking assistance.

Common warning signs include:

**Chest Discomfort.** Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.

**Discomfort in other upper body areas.** Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.

**Shortness of breath.** The feeling may occur with or without chest discomfort.

**Other signs.** These may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

Source: American Heart Association

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